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Instead of following the customary method of discussing the government of America's great cities by topics, the author has dealt with each city separately, devoting a chapter to its government and special needs. A short review of the city's history and government is followed in each case by a study of the various phases of civic activity, and an able presentation of special municipal problems, arranged under separate headings, thus furnishing easy access for comparative study.

Dr. Wilcox concludes his book with the following significant statement: "The central and all-important problem of the great cities is the problem of the budget—how to spend honestly, liberally, efficiently, and promptly for the protection of life, health, and property and for the advancement of civilization—and how to levy for these expenditures upon the advantage fund created by the community life in such a manner that taxation shall not breed inequality, injustice, and civic disloyalty."

Historical Origins of Imperial Federation. By E. ARMA SMILLIE, M.A.
Montreal: Mitchell & Wilson, 1910. 4to, pp. 61.

The author has made a comparative historical and political study of the schemes advanced between 1754 and 1867, looking to a reconstruction of the relation between Great Britain and her colonies. After a brief introductory reference to several proposals prior to the Albany plan of union in 1754, she has outlined the various schemes, classifying them in periods of chronological sequence. From 1754 to the American Revolution a number of proposals were made by writers and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic. Between 1774 and 1824, the schemes were almost entirely Canadian in origin. The third period commences about 1824, and ends with Lord Durham's report of 1836, in which he suggested the legislative union not only of the two Canadas, but of all the provinces in British North America. Subsequent to this we find a number of proposals from various sources, leading up to confederation in 1867. A short bibliography of the subject is appended. The study shows unusual merit, careful research, and excellent composition. Unfortunately, however, space limitations have confined the author to a purely historical outline of a series of proposals, and have restrained her from a consideration of the economic and other forces underlying the general movement toward imperial federation. The British North America Act of 1867 was only a step in the attainment of an ideal toward which the British Empire is consciously moving. The author has here the basis for a valuable historical and political work, and it is to be hoped she will bring her study to date, enlarge it, and as far as possible relate the general movement to the varying social and economic conditions.